

TAX POSSESSION COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2006 MEETING
10:00 AM
WESTFORD TOWN HALL

Members present: A. Justin McCarthy; Angela Harkness; Mary L. Caless
Also present: Representatives from Habitat for Humanity; Elaine Nickerson from the Affordable Housing Committee; abutters to the property which is the subject of this meeting

A. Justin McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

AJM indicated that the Committee had received a request from Habitat for Humanity regarding 18 Williams Street to be allowed to do engineering and testing on this property in order to determine its suitability for residential construction. In a conversation with the Town Manager AJM had learned that this Committee does have the authority to allow Habitat to go on the land to do testing but not to transfer the land absent Town Meeting approval. Any request for transfer would be referred to the Selectmen. An abutter in the audience (Paul Murray) asked if a schedule for the testing was available. AJM indicated that the Committee would request such a schedule and share that information with the abutters. Another abutter in the audience asked what the process would be after any testing is performed. AJM explained that Habitat would have to go through the same process as any other builder. Elaine Nickerson introduced herself and indicated that the Affordable Housing Committee would continue to be open to conversations with all abutters. In response to an abutter's question AJM indicated that the Selectmen could not make a decision to sell this property without a Town Meeting vote. An abutter asked if the Committee knew what it might cost to purchase this land. AJM indicated that no price had been determined and that this Committee would most likely not determine it. AJM states that any party could make an offer to purchase this land from the Town.

AH made a motion to allow testing pursuant to the Habitat letter of April 5, 2006 provided that a) a schedule of testing is provided to the Committee and the abutters giving at least 3 weeks notice of any tests planned b) a copy of Habitat's insurance certificate is provided to the Committee and c) a copy of all test results are provided to the Town. The Motion carried 2-0-0.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned (no time noted).